

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering electronic mail messages on a client computer in a distributed computer network, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

~~receiving an electronic mail message at the client computer;~~

determining whether an interrupt ~~indicator~~ is associated with ~~[[the]]~~ an electronic mail message, wherein the interrupt ~~indicator~~ is a specific interrupt designation ~~within the subject line~~ of the electronic mail message, and wherein the electronic mail message comprises an interrupt indicator attached to one of a header and a footer of the electronic mail message;

determining whether a sender of the electronic mail message is authorized to send the electronic mail message with the interrupt indicator;

responsive to determining a determination that ~~[[an]]~~ the interrupt ~~indicator~~ is associated with the electronic mail message and the sender is authorized to send the electronic mail message with the interrupt indicator, determining whether a desktop of the client computer is active;

responsive to determining that the desktop of the client computer is active, automatically displaying a content of the electronic mail message in a popup window ~~without a close button,~~ wherein the popup window comprises a reply button and an action completed button, and wherein the popup window is displayed in a forefront position in the user interface on the desktop of the client computer, and wherein the popup window remains in the forefront position until a recipient of the electronic mail message responds to the content of the electronic mail message by selecting one of the reply button and the action completed button wherein the content of the electronic mail message is automatically displayed to a recipient in the popup window without the close button in the forefront position in the user interface on the client computer in response to determining that a sender of the electronic mail message has authority to issue an interrupt electronic mail message to the recipient, and wherein the authority to issue the interrupt electronic mail message is based on a corporate directory that includes an organizational hierarchy structure; and

displaying the content of the electronic mail message in the popup window without the close button in the forefront position in the user interface on the client computer until the recipient selects an action completed button within the popup window to indicate that actions specified in the electronic mail message are completed, wherein selecting the action completed button by the recipient results in a return

~~electronic mail message being sent to the sender of the interrupt electronic mail message to notify the sender that the actions specified in the electronic mail message are completed~~

responsive to the recipient of the electronic mail message selecting one of the reply button and the action completed button, closing the popup window;

responsive to determining that the sender is not authorized to send the electronic mail message with the interrupt indicator, delivering the electronic mail message to the recipient inbox; and

responsive to determining that the desktop of the client computer is inactive, delaying the display of the electronic mail message until the desktop becomes active.

2.-24. (Canceled)